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Tea farmers receive record income from exports

November 5, 2009

The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) has announced a 28 percent increase in farmers' earnings.

Kenya is the world's largest exporter of black tea having produced 345 million kg in 2008.

Income from tea reached an unprecedented \$332 million for the 2008-2009 financial year, up from about \$265 million the previous year.

KTDA's managing director, Lerionka Tiampati, says the record earnings by KTDA's 500,000 small-scale farmers are the rewards of efficient factory processes, improved auction prices caused by high global demand that has been driven by the prolonged drought, and favorable exchange rates.

Tea factories in the country have also had reasons to celebrate. Of all 60 factories under the KTDA management, 18 top-performing factories have managed to attain an average net return to the farmers of 73 percent. According to Tiampati, this has reflected an overall improvement in efficiency and cost management at the factory level.

Comparative country figures show that Kenya's small-scale farmers are the highest paid in the world, at 0.47 per kg of green leaf in the year under review. Sri Lanka is at an 0.30 dollars, Nepal at 0.23 dollars, India at 0.20 dollars and Vietnam at 0.16 dollars.

To read the entire article, click [here](#).

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